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*The Persian Revolution of 1905-1909.* By EDWARD G. BROWNE, M.A., F.B.A., Sir Thomas Adams Professor of Arabic and Fellow of Pembroke College in the University of Cambridge. (Cambridge: University Press. 1910. Pp. xxvi, 470.)

MODERN Persia has certainly an enthusiastic and devoted friend in the English scholar Edward G. Browne, of Pembroke College, professor in the University of Cambridge. He has written valuable works on his travels in Iran and his life among the people, and has likewise contributed extensively to our knowledge of the history and literature of this ancient country. A new proof of his interest is the publication of an important volume on the Persian Constitution and the Revolution of 1905-1909, with documents of high value for future historians of the Land of the Shah.

Persia was the pioneer in the constitutional movement in Asia and was the first to contradict the old adage of the unchanging East, for at last "the Laws of the Medes and Persians" have seen change, and a new régime has come into being. The development of this phenomenon is traced in a thorough way in the five hundred pages that make up the book under consideration.

The beginnings of the movement may be sought far back in the reign of Nasir ad-Din Shah, the great-grandfather of the present boy shah, when a grand vizir entertained ideas that were thought to be so liberal that he paid for them at the cost of his life. The real trouble began in 1890 and 1891 when Persia became saddled with a national debt through an ill-advised scheme which had granted a tobacco monopoly to an English company. Five years later, in 1896, Shah Nasir ad-Din fell a victim to the shot of an assassin, who was seemingly inspired by a personal grudge rather than a political grievance, although the general condition of affairs may have exercised an influence upon him.

The reign of Muzaffar ad-Din, who next mounted the Peacock Throne, was marked by an ever-growing discontent on the part of the people, who were dissatisfied at the depressed financial status of the country and were urged on by the growth of public opinion, until they rose—ecclesiastical leaders sharing in the popular demonstration—and demanded to have a real voice in the government. This concession was finally made by the sick sovereign, and on August 5, 1906, the ancient land of Cyrus, Darius, and Xerxes found itself in possession of a constitution, with a national assembly inaugurated two months later, or shortly before the sovereign's death in January, 1907, and the succession of his son Muhammad Ali Shah.

The friction which began almost immediately between the new shah and the constitutional leaders, forms a story that is well known. The strained feeling became ultimately so intense that it resulted in the bombardment of the parliament by a Cossack regiment of the shah. Riot, rebellion, and revolution became rife, until at last Muhammad Ali,

after virtual abdication of the throne, was formally deposed, and replaced by his son Sultan Ahmad Riza, a lad of eleven years of age, with a regent to hold the reins of government.

The narrative of these events is consecutively told, chapter by chapter, accompanied by a presentation of original documents now accessible or specially furnished to the author by his friends in Teheran and Tabriz, and supplemented by an extensive use of material from the European press. A full account, with remarkably frank criticisms, is given of the agreement which was entered into between England and Russia in 1907 in regard to Persian affairs. In the comments here added, a particular point is justly made with respect to the manner in which this *entente* is viewed when seen through Persian eyes; and much that is instructive on the subject of the Turkish Revolution of 1908 is brought out. A series of appendixes is included to give the basic principles of the Persian Constitution and the fundamental laws that were adopted in the National Assembly, together with comprehensive translations of Persian documents and letters in some fifty pages at the close of the volume.

The value of the work is enhanced by a large number of photographs of the persons who have been most actively engaged in the entire movement, and there are added numerous other illustrations that serve to make clearer the historic story which is told. The work is one of first-hand information and of first-rate importance by an authority who may be considered in a way as better qualified than any one in the West to speak upon the subject of this eventful change in the East.

A. V. WILLIAMS JACKSON.

#### BOOKS OF AMERICAN HISTORY

*Essays in American History*. Dedicated to Frederick Jackson Turner. (New York: Henry Holt and Company. 1910. Pp. vii, 293.)

No instructor in the gentle art of historical investigation can take up this volume without a new thrill of satisfaction in his vocation; one which carries with it the hope of winning the lasting gratitude of such choice spirits as the lure of scholarship selects out of the host of students who merely touch and go. This opportunity to grapple "with hoops of steel" the student friends, who else pass on, forget, and are forgotten, is no mean reward for the hours of patient conference and helpful quest. As Professor G. S. Ford says in his graceful introduction, this volume "preserves and transmits, by its very existence, that part of a scholar's work which is hardest to measure and record—his power to kindle his spirit and his love of scholarship in other men". This power Professor Turner possesses in a degree unsurpassed by any of his contemporaries, and no one of them will have any other emotion than pleasure that this fine tribute comes to him from the enkindled hearts of his former students.